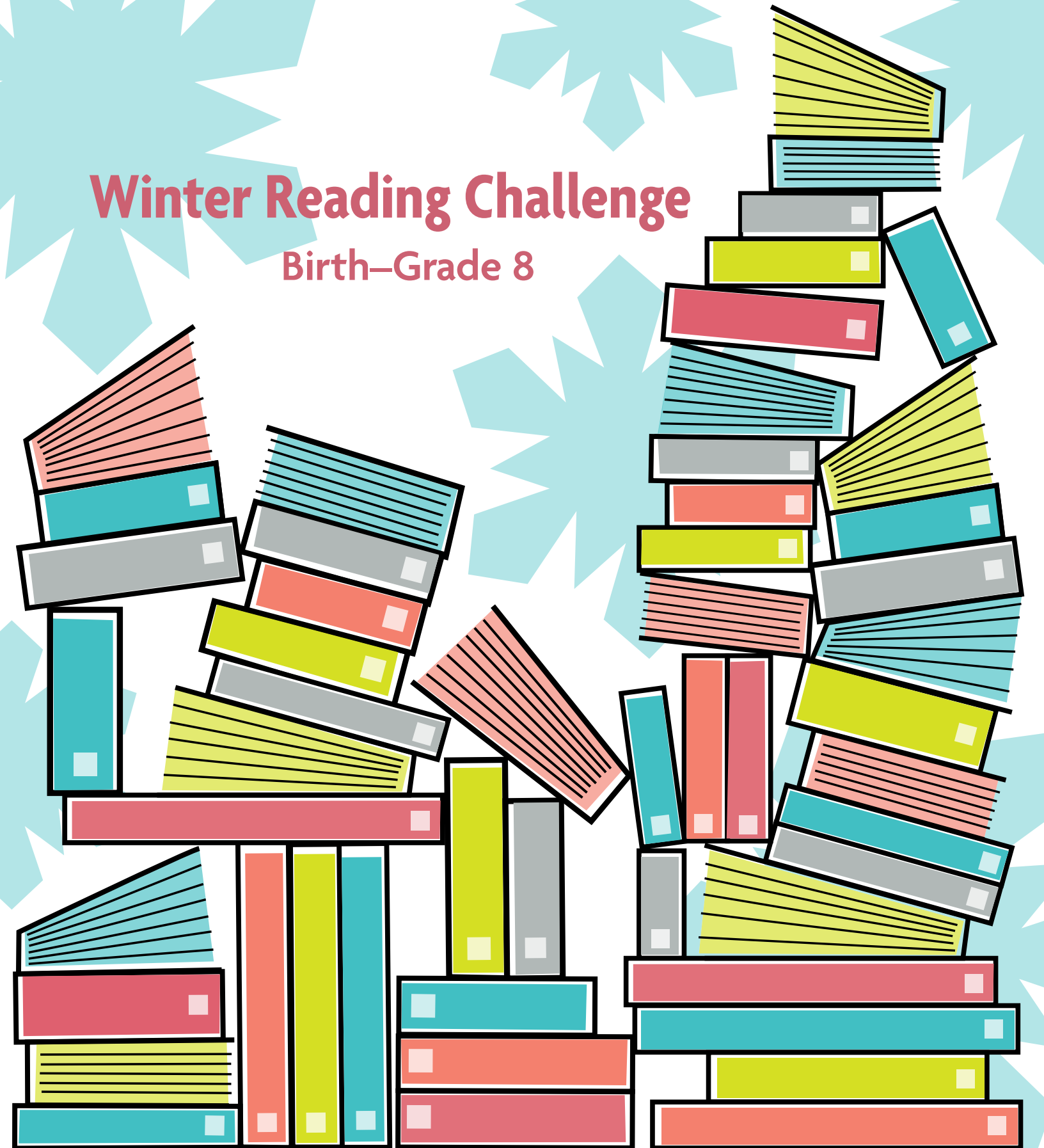
MORTON GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

Winter Reading Challenge

Birth–Grade 8



Winter Reading Challenge

Birth–Grade 8

Friday, December 15–Monday, January 15

Read and earn prizes this winter. Stop by the Youth Services Desk starting December 15th to register, pick up your log, and start reading.

Wee Read
Birth to 24 months with a parent/caregiver
Fridays, 9:30–10:15 am or 11–11:45 am
Stories and songs for our littlest listeners. Please bring a tummy time mat or blanket for the baby. Older siblings welcome.

Monday Morning Playgroup
Birth to Age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Mondays, 9:30–11 am
(no class December 25 and January 1)
Drop in for some open-ended play and meet new friends at our weekly playgroup.

Bedtime Stories & More
Birth to Kindergarten with a parent/caregiver
Monday, December 4, 6:30–7 pm
Spend time winding down for bed with a few stories and songs.

Listen Up!
Birth to Kindergarten with a parent/caregiver
Tuesdays, 10–10:45 am
Listen to stories, sing songs, and more at this all-ages storytime!

Toddler Time
Ages 24–36 months with a parent/caregiver
Wednesdays, December 6–20 and January 3–17
10–10:30 am
Get your little one acquainted with the Library at this two-riffic storytime. To attend, children must be between 24 and 36 months old at the time of the class.

Preschool Storytime
Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursdays, December 7–21 and January 4–18
10–10:45 am
Stories, songs, activities, and more that are perfect for the school-ready child.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

R = Registration is required

REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

Build-A-Reader Storytime: Things That Go

Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver
Sunday, December 10, 3–3:30 pm
Join us for a fun storytime featuring our transportation-themed DUPLO Read & Build set. Siblings are welcome but build and craft supplies are limited to registrants. **R**

Family Storytime

Birth to Age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Saturdays, December 16 and January 13, 10–10:30 am
Bring the whole family to this storytime filled with books, songs, and fun.

Mini Music Makers

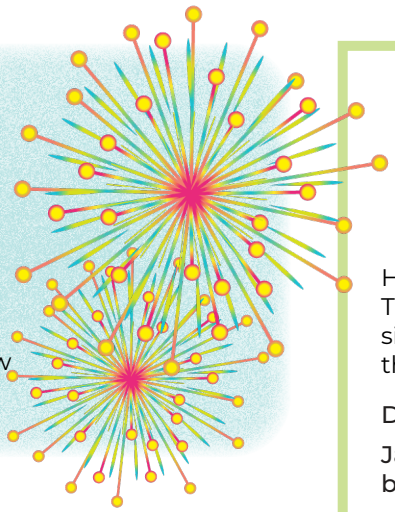
Ages 2–5 with a parent/caregiver
Wednesdays, December 27 and January 24
10–10:45 am
Feel the rhythm, hear the rhyme; it's Mini Music Maker time! **R**

Tots Dealing with Big Feelings Storytime

Ages 3–5 with a parent/caregiver
Thursday, December 28, 10–10:30 am
We'll talk about managing feelings through stories, songs, and activities and leave this storytime with strategies to handle emotions that can be overwhelming. This session's theme: Jealousy and Siblings. **R**

New Year's Eve Family Storytime

Birth to Age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Sunday, December 31
3–3:45 pm
Get your family excited for holiday festivities with this New Year's Eve-themed storytime.

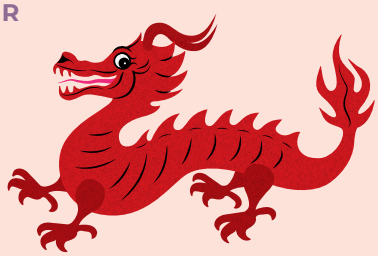


Mathematics Circus

Ages 3-5 with a parent/caregiver
Sunday, January 21, 2–3 pm
Come one, come all to a math-tacular spectacular! We'll leap into mathematics with games, stories, and creative play that add up to a circus full of fun. **R**

Worldwide Storytime
The Chinese New Year

Ages 3–8 with a parent/caregiver
Saturday, January 27, 10–11 am
Join Morton Grove resident Sara Wang and get ready for the Chinese New Year with stories, activities, and an introduction to Mandarin Chinese. **R**



1000 Books Before Kindergarten Storytime

Birth to Age 5 with a parent/caregiver
Sunday, January 28, 3–3:30 pm
Read stories, share favorite books, and more at this storytime for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten participants. Learn more about 1000 Books Before Kindergarten at **mgpl.org/1000books**.

StoryWalk

Head to the Library for some outdoor family fun. The pages of a book are arranged on numbered signs around the building. Take a stroll and enjoy the story at your own pace.

December: *The Mitten* by Jan Brett

January: *A Thousand White Butterflies* by Jessica Betancourt-Perez

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and Kellogg Hubbard Library.

REGISTRATION begins November 15 for December events and December 15 for January events unless otherwise noted.

Grades 6–8
Thursdays, December 7 and January 4, 6–7 pm
A fun-filled hour of anime appreciation. We'll watch and talk about your favorite shows, draw, and enjoy all things anime. **R**

Crafty Saturday
All Ages
Saturdays, December 9 and January 13
9:30 am–4:30 pm
Drop in the Youth Services Department to make a seasonal craft while supplies last.

Puzzle Gauntlet
Grades 4-8
Wednesday, December 13
4:30–5:30 pm

Jr. Puzzle Gauntlet
Grades 1-3
Thursday, December 14
4:30–5:30 pm

Do you have what it takes to beat the Puzzle Gauntlet? The Puzzle Master devised a series of devious challenges to test your STEAM skills and cunning to the max. Should you triumph, you will unlock the snack-a-licious treasure stash. **R**

LEGO Builders
Grades K–8
Mondays, December 18 and January 15, 6:30–7:30 pm
Wednesday, January 3, 2–3 pm
Build something amazing with the Library's massive LEGO collection. Start with one of our monthly challenges and then let your imagination guide you in a free build.

Goofball Science Club
Grades 5-8
Tuesdays, 4–5 pm
December 19: Dry Ice
January 23: Bubbles
Ever wish you could just do the fun parts of science experiments? Now you can! Join us for an hour of spectacular science time. **R**

WINTER BREAK MOVIES

All Ages
Fridays, 3 pm

Frozen Sing-Along
December 22
(2013, PG, 1h 42m)

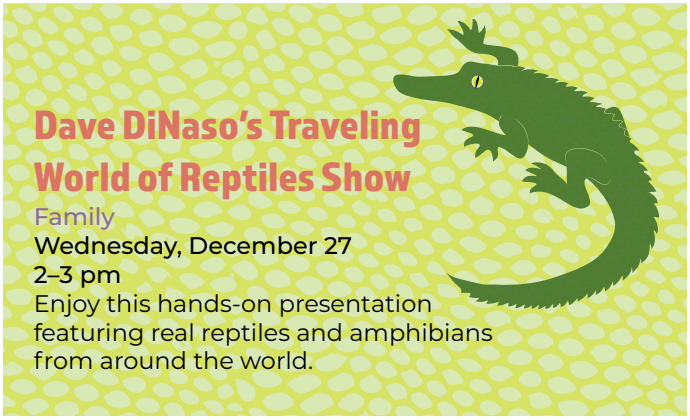
The Super Mario Bros. Movie
December 29
(2023, PG, 1h 32m)

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse
January 5
(2023, PG, 2h 20m)

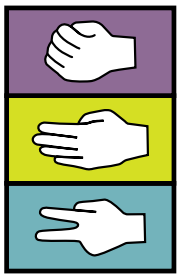
Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/ caregiver.

Family Engineering Night
All Ages
Wednesday, December 20, 7–8 pm: Electromagnets
Thursday, January 25, 7–8 pm: Zoetropes
Once a month, we turn a STEM idea into an engineering project. Projects are intended for school-aged kids and above, though younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up. **R**

Crafternoon
Grades K–8
Tuesday, December 26, 3–4 pm
Monday, January 29, 4:30–5:30 pm
Join us for an afternoon of open-ended crafting with a wide variety of materials.


Dave DiNaso's Traveling
World of Reptiles Show
Family
Wednesday, December 27
2–3 pm
Enjoy this hands-on presentation featuring real reptiles and amphibians from around the world.

Rock Paper Scissors Tournament
Grades 1–8
Thursday, December 28, 6:15–7:30 pm
Rock? Paper? Scissors? Choose wisely and you could be the grand champion! Students in grades 1–8 are invited to compete by grade level. Winners at each grade level go on to compete in the final round to crown this year's Rock Paper Scissors Champion. Check-in for competitors begins at 6:15 pm. Competition starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Cookies provided. **R**



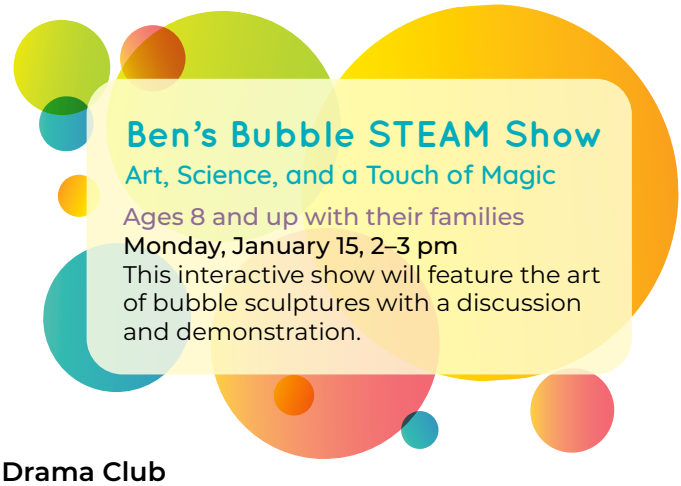
LitLoot Middle School
Grades 6–8
January 1–14
LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other goodies. To subscribe to January's box, register between January 1 and 14. We'll contact you when boxes are ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. **R**

Nintendo Switch Gaming
Tuesday, January 2
Grades 3–6: **2–3 pm**
Grades 6–8: **3–4 pm**
Drop-in and play Nintendo Switch games with your friends at the Library!

DIY Family Game Night
All Ages
Wednesday, January 3, 7–8 pm
Join us for an evening of zany homemade games; some assembly required! Games are geared toward school-aged kids and above, though younger children are welcome to participate with a grown-up. **R**

Card Games: Shuffle Up and Deal!
Grades 3–8
Thursday, January 4, 3–4 pm
Is the cold weather keeping you indoors? Bring out the cards! Join us for an introduction to classic card games.

Math Brigade
Grades K–2
Thursday, January 11, 4:30–5:30 pm
Discover math skills through active learning and work as a team to build something amazing. This month, we're taking action on subtraction. **R**


Ben's Bubble STEAM Show
Art, Science, and a Touch of Magic
Ages 8 and up with their families
Monday, January 15, 2–3 pm
This interactive show will feature the art of bubble sculptures with a discussion and demonstration.

Drama Club
Grades 1-8
Tuesday, January 16, 7–8 pm
Bring out your inner drama queen or king and get creative with acting, improv, and theater games.

Mad Math Society
Grades 3–6
Wednesday, January 17, 4:30–5:30 pm
We are out to prove that math is secretly awesome with brain-bending fun and activities. This month, we are investigating the Pythagorean theorem. **R**

Chess Academy
Grades 1–8
Thursday, January 18, 7–8 pm
Learn how to play chess with chess master Chris Christmas. All skill levels welcome.

KIDS

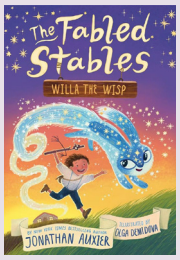
Mini Masterpieces
Grades 1–3
Wednesday, January 24, 4:30–5:30 pm
We will look at the artwork of well-known artists and then use them as inspiration to create our own masterpieces. This session's artist: Piet Mondrian. **R**

Terrific Trees: The Science of Trees
Grades 1–5
Wednesday, January 31, 4:30–5:30 pm
Explore the wonder of trees with stories, a craft, and activity. Presented by Cook County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom. **R**

Book Discussion Groups

Registration opens for each book club event on December 1. After you register, pick up your free copy of the book of the month at the Youth Services Desk.

Family Reads
Grades 1–3
Wednesday, January 31
6:30–7:15 pm
Read the book of the month aloud at home with your family. Then bring a grown-up with you to discuss and explore the story with a hands-on activity. This month's book: *The Fabled Stables: Willa the Wisp* by Jonathan Auxier. **R**



Fearless Readers Book Club
Grades 4–6
Wednesday, January 24
7–8 pm
Team up with your favorite grown-up for an immersive experience based on the book of the month: *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova. Be ready for discussion, snacks, activities, and surprises. **R**

STEMonade Stand©
Stop by the STEMonade Stand located at our Lincoln Avenue entrance for project kits to do at home. Each kit is sealed inside a zip-top bag with instructions and STEM connections. For more information and updates on biweekly projects, visit **mgpl.org/stemonade**. When life gives you lemons, make STEMonade.

STEMONADE STAND

TEENS

R = Registration is required

LitLoot
Grades 9–12
December 1–11
LitLoot is a free literary subscription box filled with a custom selected library book and other free goodies. Subscribe to December's box at **mgpl.org/events**. We'll contact you when your box is ready for pickup at the end of the month. Subscriptions are limited, so register early. Library card required. **R**

Teen Hangout
Grades 9–12
Thursdays, 7–9 pm
December 21: *Elf*
January 18: *Mean Girls*
Grab your coziest blanket and join us for a casual throwback movie night with games, snacks, and other small activities. **R**

SUPER SMASH BROS. TOURNAMENT
Grades 9–12
Saturday, January 6, 2–3 PM
Super Mario. Pikachu. Sonic. Play as your favorite smash character on the big screen to compete for a prize. **R**

mgpl.org/teens page
On this page you'll find items from our teen collection, helpful online resources, and how to get involved at the Library.

ADULTS

Senior Activity Kits

Stay busy and keep your brain active with creative activities and informational materials for seniors. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

Adult ESL Literacy Kits

Practice English with monthly ESL Literacy Kits for adults. Each kit may contain vocabulary puzzles, idioms, suggested activities, or a short reading exercise, along with the monthly issue of *Easy English News* newspaper. Suitable for all skill levels. Available on the first of each month at the Info Desk while supplies last.

Social Seniors

Join us for a variety of fun activities. Seating is limited, so register early to guarantee your spot. R

Bingo
Wednesdays, December 6 and January 3
10–11 am
Socialize as you play. Small prizes will be awarded to those who Bingo!

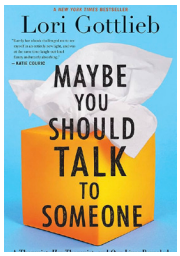
Arts and Crafts
Wednesdays, 10–11 am
December 13: Snowy Mason Jar
January 10: Floral Tile Painting
Tap into your inner creativity with a fun and easy craft project.

Get Excited About Science
Wednesdays, 10–11 am
December 20: Forces in Motion
January 17: Science Discoveries
Explore science and participate in hands-on STEM experiments.

Wits Workout
Wednesdays, December 27 and January 24
10–11 am
Maintain and enhance your cognitive function and memory with this interactive event.

Fermented Vegetables with Emily Paster (Hybrid)
Sunday, December 3, 2-3 pm
Cookbook author and food preservation expert Emily Paster will explain and demonstrate how to lacto-ferment vegetables in a salt brine, creating an environment in which probiotics can flourish. R

Meet the Author: Lori Gottlieb (Online)
Wednesday, December 6, 7–8 pm



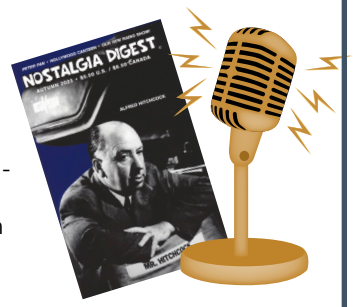
Psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author Lori Gottlieb joins us for a thought-provoking conversation about mental health in anticipation of the winter holiday season. R

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

Crafting For Charity
Saturdays, December 9 and 23, January 13 and 27
9:30–11:30 am
Create handmade knitted and crocheted crafts for local organizations. Please bring your needles and/or hooks and some acrylic yarn. Seating is limited, so register early. R

The Windy City on the Air: Chicago and the Golden Age of Radio

Thursday, December 14
2–3 pm
Steve Darnall, author of *Nostalgia Digest Magazine*, explores the groundbreaking efforts of early Chicago radio, along with some iconic voices that called Chicago home. R



Virtual Screening: *The Nutcracker* Presented by The Royal Ballet (Online)
Saturday, December 16
Watch the 2016 recording of *The Nutcracker*, danced by The Royal Ballet (UK), with music played by Royal Opera House Orchestra. Registrants will receive an email with a link to the performance which can be viewed Saturday, December 16, and Sunday, December 17. R

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ADULTS

R = Registration is required

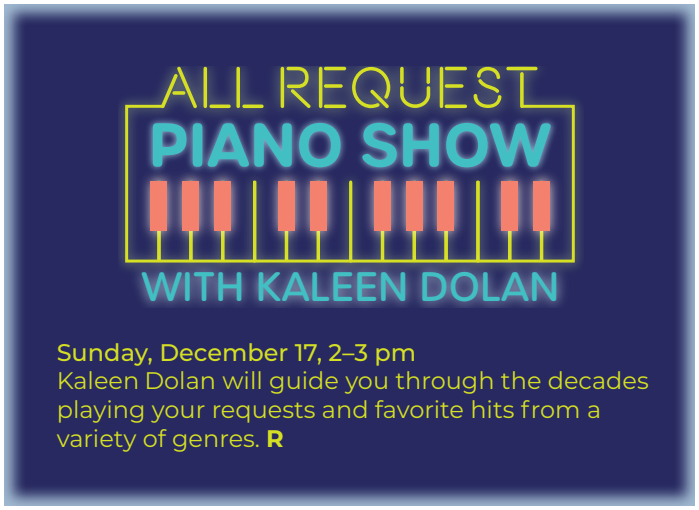
HEALTHY LIVING

Tai Chi (Online)
Mondays, December 4 and 18, January 8 and 22
9:30–10:15 am
Certified Tai Chi Instructor Erica Bough demonstrates Shibashi body movements, breathing exercises, and meditation to help reduce stress, restore balance, and increase flexibility. All experience levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes. **R**

Chair Yoga
Fridays, December 8 and 22, January 12 and 26
9:30–10:30 am (Online)
Led by certified yoga instructor Susan Wilkens.

Fridays, December 1 and 15, January 5 and 19
9:30–10:30 am (In Person)
Led by certified yoga instructor Joan McGee.

Practice seated poses in one of the gentlest forms of yoga available online or in person. All experience levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes. Please use a steady chair without arms (if possible). **R**

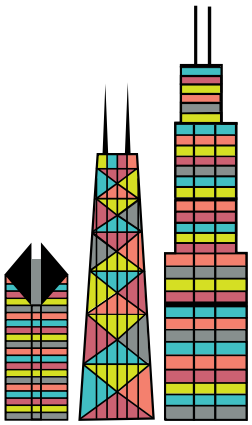


Sunday, December 17, 2–3 pm
Kaleen Dolan will guide you through the decades playing your requests and favorite hits from a variety of genres. **R**

Meet the Authors: Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells (Online)
Thursday, January 11, 7–8 pm
Authors Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells join us to speculate about our AI Future. **R**

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events.

Chicago Architecture: The Latest and Greatest (Hybrid)
Sunday, January 14, 2–3 pm
Laurie Petersen, editor of the *AIA Guide to Chicago*, will show us exciting developments all over the city, from stunning new skyscrapers to restored gems in the neighborhoods. **R**

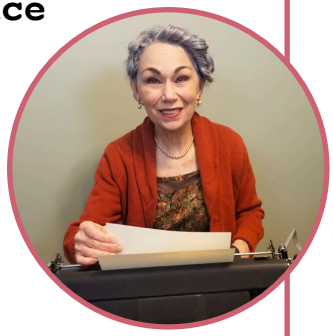


JOB SEEKER TOOLKIT

These free kits have informational materials to help you search for jobs, polish your resume, and prepare for your big interview! Available at the Info Desk while supplies last.

Resume Workshop (Online)
Tuesday, January 16, 2–3:30 pm
Looking for some assistance with your resume? Goodwill Workforce Chicago presents the dos and donts of resume building. **R**

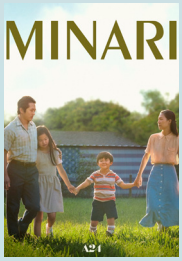
Agatha Christie: A Body of Evidence
(Hybrid)
Thursday, January 18
2–3 pm
Join Agatha Christie in Beit Agatha as she contemplates beginning her autobiography and reminisces about her childhood, her life as a writer, and her adventures. Performed by Debra Miller. **R**



INDIE MOVIE NIGHT

Everything Everywhere All at Once
Wednesday, December 6
6–8:30 pm
An interdimensional rupture threatens to unravel reality forcing an overwhelmed immigrant mother to channel her newfound powers and fight to save her home and family. (2022, R, 2 hr 19 min) **R**

Minari
Wednesday, January 3
6–8 pm
A Korean American family moves to an Arkansas farm in search of the American dream. Amidst the challenges of their new life, they discover the resilience of family and what makes a home. (2020, PG-13, 1 hr 55 min) **R**



mgpl after dark
KARAOKE
Friday, January 19, 6:30–7:30 pm
Join us for a night of music, fun, and unforgettable performances. We will provide a variety of songs to choose from, and you can perform solo or in a group with your friends. Spectators are welcome.

TUESDAY MOVIES @ MGPL

Asteroid City
Tuesday, December 5
10–11:45 am

Haunted Mansion
Tuesday, December 12
10 am–12:00 pm

Unexpected
Tuesday, December 19
10–11:45 am

Lives Well Lived
Tuesday, December 26
10–11:15 am

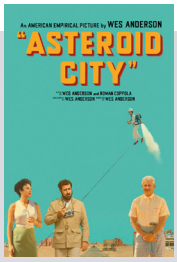
Dreamin' Wild
Tuesday, January 2
10 am–12:00 pm

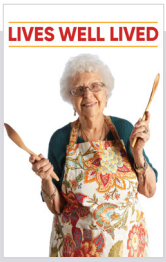
Corner Office
Tuesday, January 9
10–11:45 am

Learning to Drive
Tuesday, January 16
10–10:30 am

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore
Tuesday, January 23
10 am–12:30 pm

It's Complicated
Tuesday, January 30
10 am–12:00 pm





Jigsaw Puzzle Swap
Saturday, January 20, 10 am–12 pm
Refresh your jigsaw puzzle collection by swapping one of your gently used ones for a new-to-you puzzle. Choose one puzzle for every one you bring. Puzzles must be complete, at least 500 pieces, and in the original box. Drop off puzzles at the Info Desk starting on Saturday, January 13.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition
Sunday, January 21, 2–4 pm
Teams of up to four can test their skills by racing to complete a 500-piece puzzle. All puzzles are the same, and no one may see the puzzle until the timer starts. If no one has finished by the time the two hours are up, a winner will be determined by the number of pieces left. Have one person from your team register. **R**

Craft Joy with Color Play
Saturday, January 27, 2–3 pm
Explore your creativity with easy art activities inspired by abstract artists and their use of color. Using simple materials like colored paper, crayons, and watercolor paints, the focus is on creative play and the joy of making art. No experience or skill necessary, all are welcome. **R**

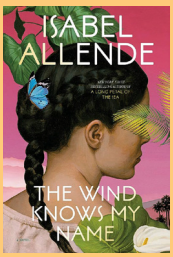
Exploring Spices (Online)
Spice: Cajun Blackening Seasoning Spice
Sunday, January 28, 2–3 pm
(pickup starts January 2)
Explore spices from around the world in this flavorful bi-monthly event. Pick up the spice of the month and then discover the taste by making any dish of your choice. At the end of the month, we will meet over Zoom to share results and experiences. **R**

Staycation in Virtual Reality
Wednesday, January 31, 10 am–1 pm
Explore the world from the comfort of the library in virtual reality with the Oculus Quest. To reserve a 20-minute time slot, call 847-965-4220 x1. **R**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BOOK PICKS

Visit **mgpl.org/civics** for staff-curated lists of resources related to a variety of topics. Not sure where to begin? We have selected a few titles to help you get started.

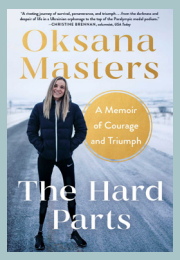
Immigrants & Refugees



The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende

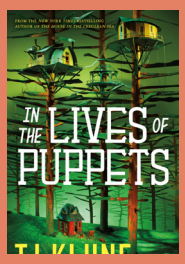
Disability Awareness

Everything / Nothing / Someone by Alice Carrière



The Hard Parts by Oksana Masters

LGBTQ



In the Lives of Puppets by TJ Klune

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

Tech Talk: Video Game Consoles & Accessories (Online)
Tuesday, December 5, 10–10:30 am
Thinking about purchasing a new video game system for the holidays? This tech talk will explore popular video game consoles. **R**

Using Google Maps on your Smartphone
Thursday, December 7, 10–11 am
Learn how to navigate your world faster and easier. Bring your smartphone and login info. **R**

Tech Talk: Mango Languages App (Online)
Thursday, January 11, 10-10:30 am
Explore this online language learning app that features more than 70 languages. **R**

Computer and PC Basics
Wednesday, January 17, 2–3:30 pm
Learn the fundamentals of using a PC, including operating a mouse and keyboard, utilizing applications, and searching the internet. **R**

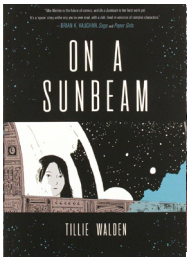
Excel Pivot Tables
Tuesday, January 30, 6:30–8 pm
Learn how to create and use Pivot Tables in Excel to sort, analyze, and summarize data. **R**

book PICKS

Looking for your next great read? Fill out the form at **mgpl.org/book-picks** to receive a customized list of suggested books from our librarians. Don't have a computer? No problem—we are happy to give suggestions over the phone or in person as well.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

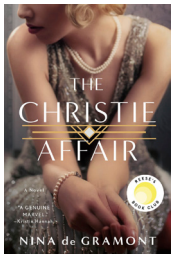
Readpool: Adult Graphic Novel Discussion Group (Online)



On a Sunbeam
by Tillie Walden
Monday, December 18, 7–8 pm **R**

Between the Lines

Favorite Books of 2023
Thursday, December 14, 10–11 am (In Person)
Tuesday, December 19, 7–8 pm (Online)
Rather than read and discuss a specific book, come prepared to talk about your favorite book (or books) you read in 2023.

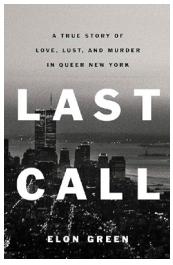


The Christie Affair
by Nina de Gramont
Tuesday, January 18
10–11 am pm (In Person)
Thursday, January 23
7–8 pm (Online)

Between the Lines is held on two different days, either in person or on Zoom. New members are always welcome! **R**

LitLounge (Online)

Litera-cheers Best of 2023
Wednesday, December 13
7:30–9 pm



Last Call
by Elon Green
Wednesday, January 10
7:30–9 pm

Meets monthly over Zoom. Cohosted with Skokie Public Library. **R**

6140 Lincoln Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053–2989

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am–6:00 pm
Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

Online
Website: mgpl.org
Events: mgpl.org/events
Catalog: catalog.mgpl.org

Phone
Main: 847-965-4220

Email
Adult & Teen Services: info@mgpl.org
Youth Services: ysinfo@mgpl.org
Check-Out Desk: circinfo@mgpl.org

Social Media

PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY
Attendance at Library programs constitutes consent to be photographed or videotaped for Library purposes. If you or your child do not wish to be photographed or videotaped, please notify staff.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
Patrons needing special assistance should call 847-965-4220 or email info@mgpl.org.

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS
Events are subject to change and may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Call the Library at 847-965-4220 to confirm scheduled events.

LIBRARY **CLOSINGS**

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25, Christmas Day
Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Vol. 47, No. 6
MGPL's newsletter is published six times a year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pam Leffler

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Emily Macejak, President
Joanne Pelletier, Secretary
Carlotta Gonzales, Treasurer
Mark Flores
Mohammed Hussain
Tamara Jost
Laima Puzzo

The Board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm.

MORTON GROVE
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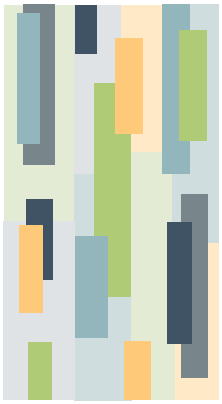
New Year's Luminaria

It's time to light up the Library and welcome in the New Year! Starting December 16, stop by the Library and put your good wishes on a paper lantern. Then join us on Monday, January 1, from 6–8 pm to view the lanterns safely lit up outside in front of the Library. Cocoa and cookies will be provided (while supplies last).



Elevator Modernization Project

The Library plans to replace the elevator during the first quarter of 2024. Tentatively scheduled to begin in February, this work is expected to take 4-6 weeks, during which time the elevator will be out of service. More details to follow.